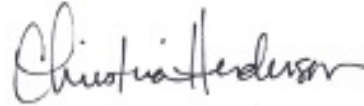


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2 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Christina Henderson

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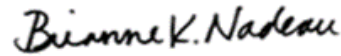
6 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

8 

10 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

16 A BILL

19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

23 To establish an Office of Safe Passage to ensure safe passage for students traveling to and from  
24 LEAs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during  
25 the school year and summer; and to require the Mayor to provide a shuttle bus from the  
26 metro station to a DCPS and public charter school within a priority area with the fewest  
27 public transportation options.

29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
30 act may be cited as the “Safe Passage to School Expansion Act of 2021”.

32 Sec. 2. Definitions.

33 (a) For the purpose of this act, the term:

34 (1) “District Agencies” means District Department of Transportation, Department  
35 of Behavioral Health, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Youth Rehabilitation  
36 Services, Deputy Mayor for Education, Office of the Student Advocate, Office of the Deputy  
37 Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human  
38 Services, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Metropolitan Police Department, Office of the

Chief Technology Officer, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services, and the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

(2) “LEAs” means Local education agencies.

(3) “Office” means Office of Safe Passage.

(4) “Priority area” means a census block in ward 7 and ward 8 with the highest incidence of violent crime as reported by the Metropolitan Police Department.

(5) “Safe route” means a designated route that is monitored by safe passage personnel from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(6) “Safe Passage” means the ability of students to travel safely to and from LEAs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school year and summer.

### Sec. 3. Office of Safe Passage; establishment.

(a) Pursuant to section 404(b) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 787; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.04(b)), the Council establishes an Office of Safe Passage within the District of Columbia that is subordinate to the Mayor.

(b) The mission of the Office is to ensure safe passage for students traveling to and from LEAs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school year and summer.

(c) The Office shall be headed by a director, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Mayor.

### Sec. 4. Office of Safe Passage; duties and authority.

(a) The duties of the Office shall be as follows:

(1) Create a District-wide and ward-specific five-year strategic plan for safe passage that has measurable outcomes and submit it to the Council no later than October 1, 2021 and every five years thereafter;

(2) Gather and analyze data to improve safe passage and submit an annual report to Council no later than December 31 each year;

(3) Improve collaboration, problem solving, and cooperation among District agencies and community-based organizations, funding, and outcomes;

(4) Award grants on a competitive basis to community-based organizations that participate in the Safe Routes to School program; and

(5) Provide recommendations, in conjunction with District Department of Transportation, on how the District can enhance transportation options to improve safe passage.

Sec. 5. Office of Safe Passage; requirements for awarding grants.

(a) The Office shall publish rules to govern award of grants consistent with this section and the Grant Administration Act of 2014, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.11 *et seq.*).

(b) The Office shall award grants on a competitive basis to community-based organizations that participate in the Safe Routes to School program.

(c) Grants shall be awarded in a manner consistent with the Office's strategic plan for safe passage programming and funding with particular attention to the strategic plan's goals and priorities, geographic distribution of safe passage programs and funding, and program quality.

(d)(1) The Office shall establish a review process for awarding grants, which shall include the use of review panels to evaluate each grant application in an impartial manner.

(2) No more than half of a review panel's members may be employees or contractors of the Office.

(3) No member of a review panel may have a conflict of interest that would render the reviewer unable to be impartial.

(e) Grants shall be awarded for terms of at least 5 years, subject to the availability of funding.

(f) The Office may not award a grant under this section in excess of \$1 million during a 12-month period, either singularly or cumulatively, unless the grant is first submitted to the council for approval, in accordance with section 451(b) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 803; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.51(b)), or by act.

(g) In addition to the reporting requirements in section 1097 of the Grant Administration Act of 2013, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.16), on or before November 1 of each year, the Office shall submit to the Council and make publicly available an annual status report for all grants issued by, or on behalf of, the Office in the previous fiscal year, which shall include, for each grant:

(1) Detailed information about the grantee;

(2) A description of the specific services provided by the grantee;

(3) The location of services; and

(4) The amount of grant funds dedicated to program costs and the amount dedicated to other expenditures.

Sec. 6. Office of Safe Passage; implementation of the Safe Routes to School program.

(a) The Office shall implement a Safe Routes to School program. At minimum, the Office shall:

106 (1) Designate 10 priority areas;  
107 (2) Establish at minimum one safe route in each priority area; and  
108 (3) Award grants on a competitive basis to community-based organizations in  
109 accordance with section (5).

110 (b) Each community-based organization that is a recipient of a grant shall manage the  
111 hiring of safe passage personnel to monitor the safe routes. Every safe passage personnel shall  
112 meet the minimum requirements for employment:

113 (1) Submit an employment application;  
114 (2) Physically stand for long periods of time and tolerate all weather conditions;  
115 (3) Read and write incident reports;  
116 (4) Commit to working a total of 6.5 hours per day for five days a week for  
117 minimum wage;  
118 (5) Demonstrate knowledge about the community they wish to serve;  
119 (6) Attend all required safe passage meetings and trainings to ensure best  
120 practices; and  
121 (7) Reside near the priority area where they wish to serve, to the extent it is  
122 possible.

123 (c) The safe passage personnel shall at minimum have the following duties:

124 (1) Conduct daily monitoring of a designated safe route;  
125 (2) Ensure safety of students by identifying potential conflicts and working  
126 collaboratively with District agencies and the community to peacefully diffuse situations;  
127 (3) Support attendance by encouraging students to attend class daily and  
128 on time; and

(4) Build relationships with school administrators, police personnel, parents, community residents by increasing their awareness of the program whenever possible.

Sec. 7. Improving Transportation Options.

The Mayor shall provide a shuttle bus from the metro station to a DCPS and a public charter school within a priority area with the fewest public transportation options.

Sec. 8. Safe Passage Expansion.

Nothing in this act shall preclude the Office from establishing safe routes or improving transportation options in other wards in the District with a high incidence of violent crime as reported by the Metropolitan Police Department.

Sec. 9. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 10. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.